

From: George A. Adams III <adamsiii@sccoast.net>
To: A7.A7(NETMSCS)
Date: 7/18/98 10:56am
Subject: Comments to Commissioner Ness

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ORIGINAL

George A. Adams III (adamsiii@sccoast.net) writes:

George A. Adams III
552 Forestbrook Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Dear Sir:

I am a deaf resident of Myrtle Beach, SC. Where we have alot of disaster weather here? I want to bring up some issues that the first FCC made on the Telecommunication Act. Majority of Deaf throughout states are not pleased with the bill.

1. Waiting til 10 years before all TV networks, cables, Tv productions and movie productions to have real-time Closed Caption within 10 years. We already wait 7 years since the ADA was passed by the US Congressmen.

95% is not good enough, we expect to have 100% CC within short period of years not ten years. The TV networks or TV productions can play politics all they want. We are human beings.

2. The Advertisement should pay 10% or 15% for real time CC for any shows in a pot, then other small advertisement can pay for real time CC. The baseball, football and basketball players get million of dollars in salary. Yet the advertisement are showing something that I dont understand what they are selling. I can go out and buy the wrong product for the wrong reasons.

3. Have pagers for all hearing impaired without cost for warning of disaster weather. I tell you why, if the phone and electric lines are down, then how deaf will know when to leave the area or what to do during disaster weather or which shelter should he or she attend. Pager is matter of life or death. It will give emergency number to warn about what types of disaster weather.

4. Have all computer into real-time CC. I hear the voice just a little, but I dont understand what the computer is trying to tell me.

5. This is a major issue: I had contacted the Public Services Commission, ownerships, telephone cos. and US Congressmen about this problem.

The PSC told me as long any city or government has at least 3 public pay phones on the site, there is nothing they can do about installing TTY public pay phones.

I still have the letter from SC PSC. It proves that they can play loopholes having 3 public pay phones avoiding installing TTY public pay phones.

6. I asked the Horry County Telephone Co. to give Deaf/HH 35% discount on the local call, what they did give discount for all----deaf and hearing. But it takes 10 times longer for deaf to type on TTY. We end up paying higher phone bill than hearing.

7. I go to Pantry, Scotchman and they have 3 or 4 public pay phones and no TTY public pay phones. That is not equal communication access. What if I need to call an outgoing emergency call and I cannot use the public pay phone. The word public is wrong word for that it should be private phones.

8. I made contacted with all Telephone Cos. in SC they told me they dont design or redesign their public pay phones, they have sub-contractors do that. I believe all Public pay phones should be redesigned old or new into TTY public pay phones. All we ask for one TTY public pay phones in one area with TTY and phone amplifier signages.

9. Dropller weather report is not what Deaf expected. We want real-time CC weather report. I wrote a letter to Weather

Channel and they told me they got too many features on their screen, that they cannot put CC. I dont know if that is true or not.

It doesnt tell me what types of disaster weather or what I should do during disaster

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weather or when to leave the area. All it does show what counties have tornado or disaster weather, but it doesnt tell us what type of disaster weather.

All these things I had struggled with ownership, telephone cos., PSC and others trying to make communication more effectively for hearing impaired.

You are the only agency can do that.

Well I had been there, it is alot of struggling to get people to understand our needs and services.

They are concerned about the cost.

I invited a woman from Channel 13 to speak among the Deaf community in Conway, SC , we discussed about having real time CC for the local news and weather, she said most TV networks CANNOT AFFORD paying \$100 an hour for stenographer to feed the data into the computer and the devices are quiet expensive. We are stucked here.

I hope FCC can change their attitude. Put yourself in our shoes being deaf. Take your phone or TV away for a month and see how you feel.

I hope you are not working for the TV networks or anyone except for the American people.

I already wrote letter to Sen. Ernest Hollings from SC about reducing the years of having real time CC for all.

Thank you,

George A. Adams III

a deaf resident of Myrtle Beach, SC

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